

Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 00831 261234Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 ICAE-00
PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PA-01 /051 W
-----044168 261236Z /53

O P 261047Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8505
INFO CINCLANT NORFOLK VA PRIORITY
COMICEDEFOR KEFLAVIK IC PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USNATO
CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE REYKJAVIK 0831

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IC
SUBJECT: ELECTION WATCH: PRELIMINARY RESULTS

1. PRELIMINARY RETURNS FROM JUNE 25 NATIONAL ELECTION SHOW PROJECTED REPRESENTATION AS FOLLOWS:

CURRENT PROJECTED LOSS/GAIN

INDEPENDENCE PARTY (IP)	25	20	-5
PROGRESSIVE PARTY (PP)	17	12	-5
SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SDP)	5	13	PLUS 8
PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE (PA)	11	14	PLUS 3
OTHER	2	1	-1

ALL GOVERNMENT MINISTERS, INCLUDING FONMIN EINAR AGUSTSSON,
WERE REELECTED.

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2. FINAL RESULTS IN FROM ONLY SEVEN OF EIGHT
CONSTITUENCIES BUT, AS EXPECTED, THEY PONT TO PP AS
LOSING LARGEST SHARE OF REPRESENTATION. IP WILL
REMAIN LARGEST PARTY IN ALTHING BUT PRESTIGE OF PRIME
MINISTER GEIR HALLGRIMSSON CLEARLY DIMINISHED WITH PARTY WINNING
ONLY ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF POPULAR VOTE, SMALLEST SHARE IN AT
LEAST FORTY YEARS.

3. REVITALIZED SDP SHOWED MOST IMPRESSIVE GAINS MAKING COMEBACK FROM LOW POINT OF 1974 WITH NEW, YOUNGER CANDIDATES. PA, AS RESULT OF ITS GAINS, WILL FORM SECOND LARGEST BLOC IN ALTHING THEREBY HELPING TO CONFIRM ITS CLAIM TO BE MAJOR OPPOSITION PARTY TO IP.

4. ORGANIZATION OF LIBERALS AND LEFTISTS (OLL) LOST BOTH OF ITS SEATS ALTHOUGH KARVEL PALMASON, A FORMER OLL REPRESENTATIVE, WAS ELECTED AS AN UNAFFILIATED MP.

5. NEXT STEP IS ANTICIPATED RESIGNATION BY PRIMIN GEIR HALLGRIMSSON WITH NEXT FEW DAYS. WHILE HE CONTINUES IN OFFICE AS CARETAKER, DISCUSSIONS WILL THEN TAKE PLACE ON FORMATION OF NEW COALITION. WITH DRAMATIC GAINS BY SDP, ATTENTION LIKELY TO FOCUS ON REBUILDING IP-SDP COALITION WHICH WAS IN OFFICE 1959-71. SUCH COALITION, IF IT MATERIALIZED, WOULD BE BEST FROM POINT OF VIEW OF USG/NATO INTERESTS, BUT IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO SPECULATE ON SHAPE OF NEXT GOVERNMENT.

6. FINAL RESULTS AND ADDITIONAL COMMENT FOLLOW SEPTELS. BLAKE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 26 jun 1978
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780620/aaaaarce.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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